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PRESS RELEASE

WORLD HEAD OF AHMADIYYA JAMAAT RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS OF DEAL WITH MQM PARTY

During his weekly Friday Sermon, the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad confirmed that contrary to a recent newspaper report he had not met with Altaf Hussain, the leader of the MQM Party. His Holiness did however condemn the extremism of the so called Muslim 'Ulema' in Pakistan who he said were a major cause of the destruction of the Pakistani nation.

Regarding his supposed meeting with Altaf Hussain, His Holiness commented:

“Recently I was sent a newspaper cutting which featured a report of a recent interview with Altaf Hussain in which he openly advocated the rights of Ahmadis and openly condemned the cruelties inflicted upon them in Pakistan. The report went on to allege that he and I had met recently in London to discuss a strategy so that the MQM Party could gain ground in the Punjab... If any such meeting had taken place I am sure that Altaf Hussain would already have disclosed this information.”

Although confirming that no meeting had occurred, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad praised the MQM leader's recent comments as displaying real 'courage'. He also praised the courage of the Pakistani broadcast journalist Mubashar Lucman who conducted one of the recent interviews with the MQM leader in an extremely balanced and intelligent manner.

In respect of the ever deteriorating situation in Pakistan, His Holiness said that the problems stemmed from the anti-Ahmadiyya specific laws that were imposed during the governing regimes of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Zia-ul-Haq.

His Holiness continued that so called religious leaders in Pakistan had become consumed in their own ignorance. Thus recently a Mullah chose to compare Islam with the Coca Cola soft drinks brand. He had determined that as Coca Cola had been patented so too the religion of Islam ought to be patented so that only people who adhered to his beliefs could call themselves Muslim. His Holiness stated that to compare the religion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) with a company that develops beverages was *'the height of stupidity and ignorance'*. He continued further:

"The true Islam is that which was taught by the Holy Prophet Muhammad. According to his definition we most certainly are true Muslims. And because of this we have no need for a certificate of authenticity from any cleric or parliament... We are fully confident that Divine Will shall prevail and consequently it will become clear just who the true Muslims are."

End of Release

Further Info: Abid Khan (press@ahmadiyya.org.uk)